as Government of India. The System will have 80 terminals (SIEMENS) with provision to connect another 72 indigenously available terminals or IBM compatible PCs. This provides a large on-line ime sharing computing environment for IIT Madras. A good CAD station for engineering work is also included in the proposed configuration. The power of the CPU and the online Desk Storage is comparable to the systems available in oher IITs.

Controversial historical facts in N.C.E.R.T. book for Class XI

1695. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not mentioning of 'Chola Kings' cultural contacts with South East Asia and Sri Lanka in chapter 24 of "Ancient India" a text book for Class XI published by NCERT; and

(b) what are the specific reasons for repeated references of the influence of Sanskrit in Far-East Asia while no mention has been made of Tamil linguistic and literary influences in these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The most significant period of Cholas' cultural influence is from 10th to 12th centuries. The textbook entitled 'Ancient India' deals with the period only up to 8th century.

(b) The reference to the influence of Sanskrit in Far-East Asia has occurred thrice. The first reference says that Kamboja was developed as a centre of Sanskrit learning and numerous inscriptions were composed in that language. The second reference is that Sanskrit was the official language of the Champa Kingdom. The third reference is that the Indonesian language contains numerous Sanskrit words.

The period when the influence of Tamil Language and literature on South-East Asia became significant is not covered in the textbook "Ancient India", as such this has not been mentioned.

Controversial reference in N.C.E.R.T. book for Class XI

1696. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) whether the reference to "Madurai" is the Tamil word for "Mathura" found at page 122 line 9 of "Ancient India" a text book for XI standard published by NCERT is based on historical evidences;

(b) if so, what are those evidences; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the reference being allowed to be mentioned in this book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The reference in the textbook to Madurai as the Tamil word for Mathura is based on linguistic evidence. The great ancient Tamil Poetess Andel in her collection of songs called "Thiruppavai" refers to Mathura as Northern Madurai.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement of ethnic significance in N.C.E.R.T. book for Class XI

1697. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the statement to the